

Irish Church Quarterly

The Cambridge Medieval History by H. M. Gwatkin; J. P. Whitney

Review by: H. J. L.

The Irish Church Quarterly, Vol. 5, No. 20 (Oct., 1912), pp. 352-354

Published by: [Irish Church Quarterly](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30067462>

Accessed: 10/06/2014 10:29

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The volume ends with Mr. P. Gardner-Smith's essay on "Revelation," in which he asserts that "the time has passed when a denial of an objective revelation of statutes and judgments on Mount Sinai would be likely to shock the feelings of the majority of thinking men." In summing up one's impression of this very outspoken book, one cannot but see that all the writers, without exception, are disciples of the Wellhausen school.

S. H.

THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY. Planned by J. B. Bury. Edited by H. M. Gwatkin and J. P. Whitney. Vol. i., The Christian Roman Empire and the Foundation of the Teutonic Kingdoms. (Cambridge University Press.) 20s. net.

This volume covers a period of rather more than two centuries. It opens with an account of Constantine from the pen of the senior editor, Professor Gwatkin, who here, notwithstanding the dictum of a recent writer, shows himself by no means "incapable of writing history." He is followed, in chapters iii., viii., by Mr. Norman Baynes, who deals with the succeeding Emperors up to Theodosius I. In chapter xiv. Mr. Barker tells the story of Italy and the West from 410 to 476, and in chapter xv. M. Dumoulin treats of Odovacar and Theodoric; while in chapter xvi. Mr. Brooks has charge of the Eastern Provinces from Arcadius to Anastasius. These chapters, with the essays on the Reorganization of the Empire, by Professor J. S. Reid (chap. ii.) and on its Social and Economic Conditions in the Fourth Century, by Professor Vinogradoff (chap. xix.), are the backbone of the book. They comprise a valuable account of the history of the Empire during the fourth and fifth centuries, and the student will do well to master them at the outset. It is, perhaps, a matter of regret that they do not include for the West the period between the death of Theodosius and the sack of Rome by Alaric. For it the reader must turn to chapter ix., where it is treated from a different point of view.

But if the chapters just mentioned are of special importance, others, of a more or less subsidiary character, will by many readers be found of even more absorbing interest. Such are those which are concerned with the barbarian races. Dr. Martin Bang, in his essay (chap. vii.) on the Expansion of the Teutons, traces the migrations of these tribes from their original home beside the Baltic, beginning about 500 B.C., up to the second century A.D., when expansion, though inevitable, was no longer possible without crossing the boundaries of the Empire: and thence he leads us through the frontier wars, from the triumphs of Marcus Aurelius to the fatal field of Adrianople. The general

reader, for whom the Editors tell us they have been at pains to cater, will certainly find himself at home in this lucid and fascinating chapter. The interest of two which follow it (ix., x.), on the Teutonic migrations, 78-412, and the Teutonic Kingdoms in Gaul, is, perhaps, somewhat less; but when we reach chapter xi. our attention is once more captured by Dr. Schmidt's account of the Vandals, whom we accompany from Hungary to Gaul, and thence through Spain into Africa. This chapter is continued to a somewhat later date than the rest of the volume, and carries us to the eve of the overthrow of the Vandal Kingdom under Justinian. But the most interesting chapter of this series is that entitled "The Asiatic Background" (chap. xii.), by Dr. Peisker. Here we are given a description of the nomad tribes of the region beyond the Caspian—their life, customs and religion—and the writer's views of the cause of the Hunnish invasion of Europe, and of the traces still to be found of the incoming of the Asiatic hordes in the West.

Church History has a somewhat subordinate place in the volume, but it is by no means forgotten. Principal Lindsay discourses on "The Triumph of Christianity" (chap. iv.), Professor Gwatkin (in an essay somewhat too condensed to be easily read) on Arianism (chap. v.), Miss Gardner on later controversies (chap. xvii), and Dom Butler on Monasticism (chap. xviii.). But to the ecclesiastical student by far the most important chapter is that on the Organization of the Church, by Mr. C. H. Turner (chap. vi.). It would be scarcely too much to say that no more valuable contribution has been made by an English writer to the subject of the development of the hierarchy since the publication of Lightfoot's famous dissertation. Specially worthy of note are Mr. Turner's remarks on the statements of Eutychius and some earlier writers about presbyteral ordination at Alexandria, of which Lightfoot made so much.

Here it may be mentioned that a striking feature of the volume is the admirable and very full series of bibliographies with which it concludes.

It will be seen that, as in the companion *Cambridge Modern History*, each chapter has been committed to a competent specialist. The advantages and disadvantages of this method have been often discussed: indeed they are sufficiently obvious. But in the present case the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. It is true that the method involves a good deal of repetition. But repetitions are not always to be deprecated, especially in a book which will probably be used chiefly as a work of reference. Now and then they result in positive gain. For example, we have here two accounts of the Emperor Julian, one by Mr. Baynes, the other by Dr. Lindsay. Neither can be passed over without loss. Both writers discuss Julian's

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attempted reform of paganism, and each adds much to the other. In particular, both take note of the parallel between his aims and those of Maximin Daza half a century before him. The reader who compares the two discussions will receive much help in determining how far the parallelism extends, and to what degree the later Emperor was consciously indebted to the earlier.

But occasionally we have, not mere overlapping, but contradictory statements which are puzzling to the reader. An instance will be found in the various accounts of the proceedings of Ataulf after the death of Alaric in 411. Mr. Barker (p. 400) rejects the opinion expressed in another part of the volume by Dr. Schmidt (p. 277) that Ataulf's policy of peace with Rome was not conceived till long after his departure from Italy, and then only under the influence of Placidia. But both agree that he married Placidia at Narbonne in 414. Nevertheless Dr. Manitius assures us that the marriage "certainly took place before he withdrew from Italy" in 412. Which is right? The answer to the question is of capital importance in relation to the disputed point just referred to, and also in relation to the problem whether there was a treaty between the Emperor Honorius and Ataulf before the latter invaded Gaul: as to which Mr. Barker dissents from M. Martroye (p. 400). But those who have studied history in the sources will not be surprised that such contradictions occur. They will rather wonder that, in the volume before us, they are so few in number.

This brief notice must not end without a reference to the portfolio of excellent maps by which the volume is accompanied. It is a pity that the spelling of names in them does not always agree with that which is adopted in the text, and that a few more places are not marked in Spain and Africa. The index also is full and carefully constructed. It would have been better if it had included the various titles of office in chapters ii. and xix. Misprints are rare; but we find Liscia for Siscia (p. 256), Daeid apparently for Dacia (p. 199), and Asdingians for Silingians (p. 304, l. 7 from end). The first two are repeated in the index.

If the later volumes of the *Cambridge Medieval History* reach the standard set by the first, the series will be a most valuable addition to historical literature.

H. J. L.

PAPALISM, A Treatise on the Claims of the Papacy, as set forth in the Encyclical Satis Cognitum. By Edward Denny, M.A. (Rivingtons.) 21s.

The name of Mr. Denny is known by his book on *Anglican Orders and Jurisdiction*. This treatise is kindred in spirit to his previously published work. It consists of almost 750 closely printed pages; and it contains a keen examination of the